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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 38331-0003

Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOKURA *et al.* Confirmation No. 9520  
Appl. No.: 10/049,228 Group Art Unit: 1651  
Filing Date: February 11, 2002 Examiner: MARX, Irene  
Title: PROCESS OF PRODUCING CAROTENOID PIGMENTS

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in Response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003, response to which is due March 17, 2004. Applicants do not believe that any fees are required. In the event this is not correct, applicants request such extension of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 08-1641.

Please amend the Application as set forth in the Amendments below.